



THE LOG

Whidbey Presbyterian Church

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The mission of the Whidbey Presbyterian Church is to be a faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ and His eternal love. We glorify God above all and trust the Holy Spirit for guidance in our service to God.

Volume 2, Issue 10

November, 2006

Inside this issue:

Pastors Pen	2
Tall Timber	
Advent Wreaths	
Financial Report	
Imbach's Outbox	3
Presbyterian Women	
Welcome...	
Justin's Corner	4
Will & Endowments	
Stephen Ministry	5
Evangelism	
Lora Burge	
Prayers	6
Staff	

~ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS~

Many have responded to the request to provide cookies or bars for refreshment during fellowship after Sunday services. We all appreciate your generosity and willingness to serve in this manner. Some have suggested they would like to provide the refreshments for the Sunday when their Deacon and Parish will be acting as hosts for this fellowship.

Below are listed the Parish numbers and the weeks of responsibility. You can learn the number of your Parish by checking the Church Directory and looking for the number just preceding your name.

Remember, your cookies and/or bars will be welcome any time. Just label your package of treats with the kind, date baked and the word Deacons and leave them at the Blue House or put them into the freezer in Heritage Hall.

Nov. 5- Parish 9, Peggy Petersen, Deacon

Nov. 12 - Parish 1, Rex DuPuis, Deacon

Holiday Boutique



The boutique workshops are nearly over...time to sell our handi-work!

The holiday Boutique will be **Saturday, November 18th in Heritage Hall, starting at 9am.** Tell your friends!

This year there will be no luncheon, sorry folks, but we will have fresh

sweet rolls and coffee as well as lots of homemade bakery items for sale.

Please help with this part, if able. We are still hoping for lots of homemade pies.

There will be many interesting and fun Christmas decorations and gift items as well as some Thanksgiving items .

The silent auction has been moved to later in the Winter and will have a surprise with it; be curious.

Come see what the laughing, chattering ladies can accomplish at our Holiday Boutique!

Want to be a part of it? Call Nancy Collins or Connie Sullivan. Give a call to Pauline Williams or Jo Ernst - we need baked items...

Our group spends the money wisely; on global, national and local missions including WPC itself!

Come join us!!

*With Prayers For Peace & Joy,
Suzanne McCrea*

-Address Updates-



Not available online. Please call church office for more information.

Future Worship Services

November 22 : 7pm- Thanksgiving Eve Service

December 24th & 31st: 10am - ONE SERVICE ONLY

December 24th : 5:30pm - Family Worship Service

9:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship

Communion Servers are needed at these services.

Pastor's Pen...



My heartfelt thanks goes to all of you for supporting and providing my recently completed sabbatical.

It was much of what I planned and expected – rest and refreshment as Becky and I traveled and reconnected with many family members and friends, time for reading (everything from theology to a couple of novels) and reflection in a place of beauty and solitude, and time to explore and discuss with peers many aspects and nuances of spiritual leadership.

There were fine times of worship in a wide variety of churches where I could just worship while letting someone else worry about what needed to happen next.

Sabbatical was also more than I expected – an unplanned but needed surgery to head off potential future prob-

lems, with the accompanying extended rest for recovery. And it was less – because of the surgery I was not able to bring physical exercise back to the balance/regularity I had planned. Still, I did ride in the Seattle-to-Portland Classic (pre-surgery) and have just recently been out for a 10-mile ride here in town. So finding the balance in that aspect of my life is still a work in progress. But, isn't that a good description of life in general?

I returned to WPC feeling rested and refreshed, and happy to find that you all have been faithfully carrying forward the ministry of God in and through this congregation.

Many thanks to Kurt Imbach, who so capably filled in with pastoral leadership in my absence, and to the Rev. Jim Christensen as he moderated the Session and led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Thanks to Justin Ross as he carried out

a very demanding schedule of youth activities and mission, and to Judy Pinkerton (and Heather Rhoadé following Judy's illness) and our music and custodial staff as everyone took their part in the worship and ministries of the church. Elders and Deacons, small group leaders and teachers, cooks and cleaners, and many more have carried out the mission of Christ's church.

As great as it was to have a significant break from the everyday demands of ministry and to have time to read, reflect, and refresh in body and in spirit, I am happy to be back among you sharing in the ministry and growing in our discipleship. God has many good things ahead for us here.

- Pastor Dave

Tall Timber Family Fun Weekend!

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2007

Come join your church family for a weekend of fun & Fellowship at Tall Timber Ranch!

Sign up with Pauline Williams. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Advent Wreath Making Day

Come join the Fellowship Team for some creative fun as we make Advent Wreaths together for the upcoming Christmas season!

Starting as 10:00 A.M. in Heritage Hall on Saturday, December 2, you can gather and check out great ideas from one another. The church will provide the greenery, the wreath base and the candles.

A glue gun is very helpful in making a wreath. If you have one, please bring it, along with an extension cord.

Bring any extra decorative materials you wish, including pine cones, wheat, a star, a dove, etc. Let your imagination rule!

Refreshments will be provided. Let's spend some time as a church family on Saturday morning, preparing our hearts and homes for Advent!

Financial Report—September 2006

Not available online. Please contact the church office for more information.



Imbach's Outbox

Again I want to thank all of you for all of your help, support and prayers for me through this last three months.

An extraordinary thanks goes to the Early in the Journey team that spent a Sunday afternoon breaking the Sabbath at my home doing landscape and exterior paint work. That was huge!!! Then to our Life Group that was looking for a service project and decided to take us on as their project. That decision led to a spread sheet and the involvement of many of you in a great rotating supply chain of meals, transportation, and even ironing!

I tell you, these Life Groups are great things, especially if they are on your side. But your support in prayer, words of encouragement, and timely notes were even more appreciated, if that were possible.

Please continue to pray for Divorce Recovery. We

have ten inquirers to work with and are a little short-handed yet in leaders. But it has gone extremely well this year, and our prayer is that this will continue to have a powerful impact on lives and homes. This is a very worthwhile ministry.

I have a long-range heads up for you concerning an Alpha program that we are gearing up for to be held next fall. If you are not familiar with this term; it is a reach-out activity that is very non-threatening and user friendly. Leadership has emerged, but we will be needing a lot of church help to do this effectively. You will be hearing more as time goes on.

We have had a "praying for the church" Life Group which has been intact since our 40 Days Campaign. We need 1-3 additional members for this group, and if you are feeling a sense of call to this extraordinary ministry please contact me.



Session Notes - October 2006

Not available online. Please contact the church office for more information.



Please Welcome Our New Office Manager



We welcome Kristin Benson to our staff as she was recently employed in the position of Office Manager. Kristin comes to us with several years of part time and full time administrative experience with a very large church in her previous home of Westlake Village, California. Having grown up in a Christian home, she is committed to Christ's ministry through the church and brings strong communication and organizational skills to the position. We know you will enjoy meeting her and working with her.

Your Personnel Team

Adoption of the Peace, Purity, Unity Report and Implications for Ordination

a Workshop at Birchwood Presbyterian Church, Bellingham

Following their well-received report at the recent meeting of the presbytery, the Rev. Dean Strong and the Rev. Kurt Helmke will make a similar presentation and be available for discussion at Birchwood PC on **Sunday, Nov. 5th, at 6 p.m.** Everyone is invited. The church address is 400 Meadowbrook Court, Bellingham. You can check with the Office Manager here at WPC for driving directions if you wish to go.

Pastor Dave

Justin's Corner

I had the opportunity a few days ago to go with a group of students and adults to the Pacific Science Center to see the Dead Sea Scrolls. The exhibit itself consisted of no more than 12 small fragments of the scrolls, but even to behold those small fragments was a wonder to me. I was so surprised at the tiny script I saw, thinking about the men who sat for hours writing these scrolls.

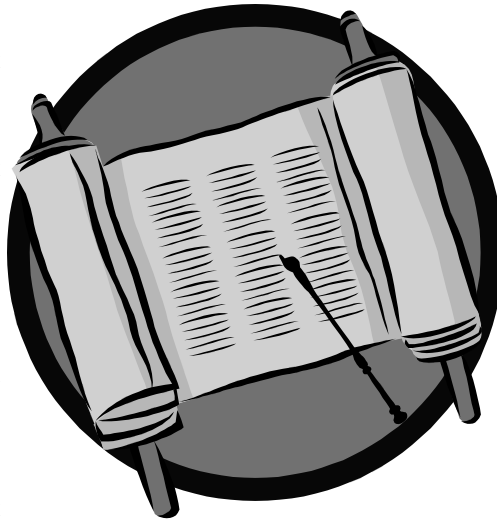
Of even more wonder was to see such an ancient fragment of the earliest known copy of the Hebrew Bible handwritten. Their very presence in my eyes, dim as they were, just touched off an echo in my mind and soul which reverberates over the 2,000 years gone by from their creation, and I wondered if modern humanity will ever again see a group of people so singly dedicated to a calling higher than themselves, in similar fashion to these Essenes.

I was struck at once with the thought of how far we have progressed and advanced technologically, yet how little we have progressed and advanced spiritually and ethically as compared to the Qumran community.

Here are a few thoughts from the experience:

*Wow. Seeing the oldest surviving copy of the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis will make you have to catch your breath.

*The Scrolls are saved for the end of the tour and because light is harmful to them, they are kept in a darkened room. This dark room, with its high ceilings, and long banners explaining each of the scroll fragments, gave me the feeling of being in a cathedral.



*To illustrate the complications of reconstructing the fragmented scrolls, the pieces from 100 jigsaw puzzles were dumped into a tank. Some of the puzzles were missing pieces, while others had extras. Many of the pieces were damaged. This showed the weight of the task of piecing together the 100,000 fragments found, some as small as a fingernail.

*The exhibit was far more oriented in archaeology than in religion. There was much more information about the Qumran community's pottery than the Scrolls' theology.

*There were samples from (a) Numbers, Psalms, Genesis, and Isaiah, (b) the apocryphal book of Enoch, and (c) the sectarian writings of the community such as The Rule of War and The Community Rule.

*Because of the age, and the leather the scrolls are written on, they kind of resemble beef jerky.

The Dead Sea Scrolls will be in Seattle through January 7th. This is one of the rare times they have ever even been outside of Israel. I really encourage you to discover the scrolls during this once in a lifetime experience.



A Word To The Wise...

Your **Whidbey Presbyterian Wills/Endowments Committee** suggests that with a little forethought, we can provide for our families, and be assured that our intentions will be carried out.

MAKE A WILL. With it you can: (a) Distribute your property as you choose; (b) Provide for those dependent on you for support; and (c) Support your church in ways that may not have been possible during your lifetime.

MAKE A LIST. You should list all the facts and information your family or executor will need to know, including the location of accounts and important documents.

COMMUNICATE. Make sure your spouse or the person you

choose to be your executor knows where to find all the details of your estate and what advisors to contact with questions.

COMMUNICATE MORE. Make sure your spouse and physician know your wishes in advance as to your preferences in health care matters, such as artificial life support, and/or give someone power of attorney to handle your legal matters and health care decisions, in case we are ever unable to handle those things for yourself.

STOCKS, MUTUAL FUNDS, AND LIFE INSURANCE. Be certain that the named beneficiaries correspond with your latest wishes as expressed in your will.

UPDATE. From time to time, you'll want to review and update

your will. Your will may need revising:

- if you've been recently married, widowed or divorced;
- if you've moved to a new state (laws may differ);
- if the executor, trustee, or guardian for your dependents has died;
- if you experience a large increase or decrease in your net worth;
- if the needs of your family change; or
- if you decide to make or increase a gift to your church.

Contact a member of your **Wills/Endowment Committee** if you have questions.

We will be happy to assist. (Von Summers, Rudy Knaack, Kathryn Powell, Fred Smith, Mike Sullivan, Bob Swetnam, Tom Asmus, Robert Taylor, Jim Kotschwar)

From the Stephen Ministry Corner

January 4th, 2007, a training class of new Stephen Ministers will commence – together with Oak Harbor Lutheran Church and First United Methodist Church, of Oak Harbor. A recent Stephen Ministry graduate, J. Lewallen from San Antonio, Texas offers his thoughts on the blessings that accrue to those who make caregiving a way of life.

*"I tell you the truth: whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*

This Scripture puts before us one of God's greatest revelations: that the depth of our love for Him is expressed in the care we offer to one another. And more importantly, our care for others is shown to be an integral part of the process of our own salvation.

As a result of my Stephen Ministry training and my first experience with a caring relationship, I have learned that the joys of caregiving can go well beyond delivering love and care to an officially assigned care receiver. It can become a way of life, affecting the manner in which I relate to family, friends, and other associates. Based on my experience to this point, here are some of my conclusions:

- My caring ministry derives its direction and its strength from my own spiritual foundation.
- In caregiving, God seems to be within me, giving

Himself to others through me.

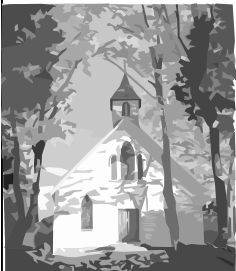
- God often speaks to me through other people, particularly other Christians.
- It is possible for me to distribute the grace of God in various forms, even though I may not be fully aware of it.
- It is possible for me to be an "agent" in the sanctification process of others, in spite of my own weaknesses.
- God touches me in meaningful ways as I touch others--the result is joy.

So, on Judgment Day, when I stand face to face with God, He may say something like this to me: "My child, I thank you for helping to relieve my pain." I will probably be so astonished that I will completely forget about today's Scripture verse and ask, "Lord, when in the world did I relieve your pain?" And He will remind me that I did this when, in the course of my caregiving, I tried to relieve the pain of my brother or sister.

Make caregiving a way of life, and experience the joy of your Savior's love!

If you feel God has called you to this ministry, call Anita Juan, Bebe Gholston, Dorothy Waite, or Pastor Dave at the church office.

The Evangelism Committee Needs You!



The Evangelism Committee is beginning work on what we hope will be a comprehensive history of our church.

We realize that there have been other recollections of our beginnings, but we hope to interview some of the charter members and others who have lived here for many years, and to find pictures of

the early church, either through newspaper archives or personal collections.

We would like to enlist your help to make this project meaningful to the current and future members of this church.

We know that there a few folks who were born here, and have stories to tell about the earlier days of Oak Harbor and Whidbey Island, perhaps even before a Presbyterian Church was established in 1963.

Betsy Knight and Helen Stimple are the Elders in charge of this undertaking and other members of the committee are: John Van Duesen, Noreen Warnock, Joan Burns, Kathryn Powell, Lois Edstrom, Lois LaBarge, Margaret Dilly and Dorothy Bradfield.

Telephone numbers for each of us are in the Directory, as well as some e-mail addresses that may also be useful. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lora Burge - Guatemala Mission Information

If you wish to make a pledge or a gift, you can pick up a form in the church office that will have all the needed information. **Make the checks payable to The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and in the memo line write "Lora Burge, ECO# 074867"** so it will be credited to her account. All gifts are tax deductible, of course. You can mail your pledge or gift directly to:

**The Presbyterian Church (USA)
Individual Remittance Processing
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**

To also reach Lora Burge—You can log onto the Whidbey Presbyterian Church website at www.whidbeypres.org

Click on **ABOUT US**

Scroll down to **OUTREACH**

Click on **INTERNATIONAL**

Scroll down to the bottom of the page—then click on **HERE**

You can also e-mail her at lburge02@whitworth.edu